

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 11-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 8 and 12 are independent.

The Office Action indicated that claims 5 and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of previously-presented claims 2, 4, and 5, canceled claims 2, 4, and 5, and amended the dependency of claim 3. Applicants have also amended claim 8 to incorporate the features of previously-presented claim 10. Finally, applicants have amended claim 12 to incorporate features present in previously-presented claims 5 and 10. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. The absence, however, of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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Respectfully submitted,

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